

- Continuing support for avenues of research which are currently unappealing but which might become drastically more useful with moderate modifications, e.g. the conventional metal detector.
- Determining how to coordinate R&D between pure investment in humanitarian demining (to improve field testing or surveying) and military countermine R&D.
- Acknowledging that there may not be a market for humanitarian demining technology, considering that perhaps a market can be created by government or NGO/private sector/foundation, each of which have drawbacks.
- Accessibility of victim assistance technology which is currently very well developed but is not affordable.
- Development of a standard statement of the operational requirement (SOR) for equipment required to meet mine action objectives in the field, and the assurance that this information is widely available. Building capacity in the user community to write and submit SORs.
- Regularizing the use of technical representation at the country level, eg. technical officers routinely stationed in MACs for activities from writing SORs to responding to donor and public queries.
- Continue investment with a view to the longer term in appropriate technology R&D to radically improve mine detection and clearance methods, provided they are applicable and affordable in the field.
- Replicate where appropriate, the model proposed by CMAC of maintaining a technical officer in the field (Mine Action Centre) as a representative for the specific technical requirements in the field, and as liaison to the donor community through filling SORs and providing information to the UN.
- Promote the expansion of the worldwide communication network on email that exists for the exchange of technical information (owner-demining-list@warwick.ac.uk).

Events

- Washington 20-22 May 1998: Washington Conference on Global Humanitarian Demining.
- Karlsruhe, Germany 1-2 July, 1998: international experts conference on demining and detection technology for humanitarian mine clearance.
- Ispra, Italy 29 September - 1 October: European Commission Joint Research Centre exhibition of demining technologies.

Next Steps

- Support the UNMAS project to establish a universal system to facilitate mine action technology coordination, in cooperation with the work of the European Commission. Illustrative models to be presented at Washington (May 98), and infrastructural elements to be presented at Karlsruhe (July 98). This will involve the formation of an 'ad hoc' group to develop this system.
- Encourage transparency and wide dissemination of information on the above process.
- Concurrently, direct resources immediately to the deployment of available technologies, in cooperation with actors in the field. This will be addressed in greater detail at Karlsruhe.